THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) *Number of applications received*—66 (19 for selection felling and 47 for clear-felling).

(*b*) *Number of applications rejected*—20 (two for selection felling and 18 for clear-felling).

Number of applications allowed—11 (four for selection felling and seven for clear felling).

(*c*) *Number of applications received relating to Attappady Valley*—4 (two for selection felling and two for clear-felling).

Of these four applications, two were received from Sri M. C. Chandy (one for selection felling and one for clear-felling), one was received from Sri K. M. Jacob (for clear felling) and the remaining one was from Sri N. Balakrishna Panicker (for selection felling). The application from Sri N. Balakrishna Panicker is pending enquiry. The other three have been allowed.

* 2613 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any report in February or March 1955 from the Revenue Divisional Officer, Malappuram, that the rules relating to the felling of trees in private forests under the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949, are violated in Attappady in Malabar ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government to prevent such violation?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) In February 1955, the Assistant Collector, Malappuram, submitted a report to the Collector of Malabar regarding the irregularities noticed by him in the working of the private forests, by three permit-holders in Attappady.

(*b*) In the case of two of the three permit-holders the periods of the permits had already expired. In the case of the third permit-holder, there were no sufficient materials for any drastic action against him. The Collector therefore warned him against repetition of careless numbering and other irregularities. The Collector has also asked the District Forest Officer, Palghat, to take special care and precautions in recommending felling permits in Attappady valley. The Collector has also issued instructions that the chisel numbering of trees both at breast height and at stump height should be insisted upon before a permit is recommended.

* 2614 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some cart-loads of firewood cut from the private forests in Attappadi were seized by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Malappuram, in February 1955 ; and

(*b*) if so how this firewood was disposed of by the Revenue Divisional Officer?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes. On 24th February 1955 the Assistant Collector, Malappuram, seized ten cart-loads of firewood which were being removed from the Unnamalai Coupe No. 4 in the unsurveyed Malavaram in Attapadi.

(*b*) The Assistant Collector returned the firewood seized by him to the owner as it had been cut under a permit issued by the Collector.

Extension of Madras Harbour

* 2615 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to answer given to clause (*a*) of question No. 1581 on 23rd March 1955 whether the Madras Harbour is proposed to be extended up to the Iron Bridge near Fort St. George?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : As the question regarding the extension of the Madras Harbour, which is a major port, relates to a matter with respect to which the executive power of the State does not extend, it is not constitutionally proper to raise the question in the State Legislature. It is therefore not proper for the Government to answer the question, in the State Legislature.

Teachers serving as village post-masters

* 2616 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of elementary school teachers acting as village post-masters on 1st July 1954?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The number of teachers acting as village post-masters on 1st July 1954 is not available. The number as on 31st March 1954 was 1487.

High mortality rate of calves

* 2617 *Q.*—SRI V. MUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the mortality rate of calves in the State is very high;

(*b*) whether the Government have examined the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) what steps they propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) It is not correct to say that mortality rate of calves in the State as a whole is high, though it may be slightly above normal in some urban areas.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative. The high mortality of calves noticed in towns and urban areas, may be said to be more often due to starvation and neglect, on the part of the owners rather than by any natural causes or diseases. This neglect is again due to the fact, that the bulk of the milch cattle in the towns are in the